

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3577

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASED AUTHORIZATION FOR MINIDOKA PROJECT, IDAHO.

Section 5 of the Act of September 30, 1950 (chapter 1114; 64 Stat. 1085), authorizing appropriations for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka reclamation project, Idaho, is amended by striking "\$11,395,000" and inserting "\$14,200,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3577.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3577 is a bill to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka reclamation project in Idaho.

A&B Irrigation is the contracting entity for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka project. The division, located on the southern portion of the State of Idaho, consists of some 80,000 acres. Construction of the division was completed in 1959 and control was transferred to the district in 1966.

Due to the lack of natural surface drainage outlets to the Snake River and constraints associated with the drainage onto the lower-lying Minidoka Irrigation District, most irrigation return flows and stormwater runoffs are injected into drain wells which are part of the original project design.

The drain wells pass the water directly into the underlying aquifer. In 1991, the United States Environmental Protection Agency designated the eastern Snake River plain aquifer a sole source of drinking water.

Under provisions of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, if a sole source of drinking water is contaminated it could result in a significant public health hazard. In an effort to comply with the Act, the district and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation developed a plan to dispose of this runoff.

The remaining work consists of constructing passive treatment and reuse systems at an estimated cost of \$2.8 million, of which up to \$1.3 million would be reimbursable to the district under a cost-sharing arrangement, 60 percent U.S. Federal Government, 40 percent irrigation, A&B irrigation.

As of now, 42 of the original 78 drain wells have been closed or abandoned,

but 36 wells are still active. This legislation would amend the original language to increase the authorization by \$2.8 million from \$11,395,000 to \$14,200,000.

In the energy and water appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2000, money was appropriated for the district to continue capping these wells in order to comply with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Unfortunately, the ceiling was hit and no further funding could be used. By increasing the ceiling, the district will be able to complete its project, which in turn will help prevent the main source of drinking water from south central Idaho from being contaminated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all colleagues support H.R. 3577.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) has quite properly explained this legislation to increase the spending ceiling for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka project in Idaho by \$2,805,000. This increase would allow work already begun under the Minidoka north side drain water management plan to be completed.

We need to protect the underground drinking water supplies in this area of the Snake River plain because they are threatened by contaminated irrigation drain water. I would urge all members of the committee to support this legislation. The administration has testified in support of this legislation and it is not controversial.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3577.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE HERMANN MONUMENT AND HERMANN HEIGHTS PARK IN NEW ULM, MINNESOTA, AS A NATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICANS OF GERMAN HERITAGE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 89) recognizing the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, as a national symbol of the contributions of Americans of German heritage.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 89

Whereas there are currently more than 57,900,000 individuals of German heritage residing in the United States, who comprise nearly 25 percent of the population of the United States and are therefore the largest ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas those of German heritage are not merely descendants of one political entity, but of all German speaking areas;

Whereas numerous Americans of German heritage have made countless contributions to American culture, arts, and industry, the American military, and American government;

Whereas there is no recognized tangible, national symbol dedicated to German Americans and their positive contributions to the United States;

Whereas the story of Hermann the Cheruscan parallels that of the American Founding Fathers, because he was a freedom fighter who united ancient German tribes in order to shed the yoke of Roman tyranny and preserve freedom for the territory of present-day Germany;

Whereas the Hermann Monument located in Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, was dedicated in 1897 in honor of the spirit of freedom and later dedicated to all German immigrants who settled in New Ulm and elsewhere in the United States; and

Whereas the Hermann Monument has been recognized as a site of special historical significance by the United States Government, by placement on the National Register of Historic Places; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, are recognized by the Congress to be a national symbol for the contributions of Americans of German heritage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 89.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 89 introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) assures that Congress recognizes the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota, as a national symbol of German heritage.

Although there are currently almost 60 million individuals of German heritage residing in the United States, there is no recognized, tangible national symbol dedicated to German Americans and their positive contributions to American culture, arts, industry, military, and government.

1415

The Hermann Monument was erected in 1897 in honor of the spirit of freedom

and later dedicated to all German immigrants and has been placed on the National Register of Historical Places. House Concurrent Resolution 89 would recognize the achievements and contributions of Americans of German heritage at the Hermann Monument. I ask my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 89.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this concurrent resolution sponsored by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) would recognize the monument in New Ulm, Minnesota as a "national symbol for the contributions of Americans of German heritage." As the legislation points out, Americans of German heritage represent with one-quarter of the U.S. population, and yet there is no national symbol recognizing the contributions that have been made to this Nation.

The recognition provided by this measure is appropriate and I would like to commend the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. MINGE) for his very diligent work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that this concurrent resolution does not alter the status of the monument in any way, nor does it create any new Federal obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support it. I would again say that the effort on behalf of this legislation by the gentleman from Minnesota has really been outstanding, as many of us who serve on the committee know. He has, I think, talked to all of us individually, and to so many other Members on the floor, to bring this to the attention of the full House of Representatives. I also want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO), his colleague, for his work in lobbying on behalf of this legislation to give due recognition to the contributions of Americans of German heritage. Mr. Speaker, I urge its strong support.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 89, which commemorates the many valuable contributions of German Americans to our society and culture through recognition of the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota.

House Concurrent Resolution 89 designates a national symbol for the contributions of Americans of German heritage. German-Americans make up the largest ethnic group in the United States, yet we have no tangible symbols recognizing their contributions to our society. My resolution establishes the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota as such a national symbol.

The story behind the historical figure Hermann is one of intrigue, valor and treachery that surpass any Hollywood script. Hermann was born into the nobility of the Germanic group called the Cherusker. He was sent to Rome for his formal education and military training. Hermann, then known as Arminius,

was soon noticed as a natural leader and became a general in the Roman army. So highly regarded was he that Arminius was to help lead a campaign to conquer the Germanic peoples.

Despite his years in the Roman army, Arminius still cherished the independence of the Germanic peoples. Roman occupation of modern day Germany would surely have crushed the independent tribes. Arminius returned to his Germanic heritage and persuaded the tribes to unite in order to fend off the Roman invasion. They were successful and the German people retained their freedom. The autonomy of these various regions formed the foundation of the current federal system of government in Germany. In Germany, he is still remembered as "the acknowledged liberator of the German race from Roman tyranny . . ." He symbolizes the independence of the German people.

That sense of freedom and independence stayed with the Germans for centuries. Millions of Germans came to America for opportunity, to escape economic or political oppression in their homeland and to lead a life with the freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution. As the immigrants settled throughout the country, they looked for a symbol of their heritage.

In 1885, at the Sons of Hermann Convention in Philadelphia, it was decided that a monument should be erected to honor Germans who came and helped build America. Hermann seemed the perfect symbol. Hermann was recast as a German-American symbol, representing the bravery, hard work, and unity they strived for in the New World. These immigrants found themselves in a new land, yet they remained true to their heritage. They felt pride that they had reached America, and in having established opportunity for the future.

The Hermann Monument stands at a crest of a hill overlooking the city of New Ulm and the Minnesota River Valley. To the residents of the heavily German-American New Ulm, the monument symbolizes the pride they take in their German heritage. To German-Americans scattered across the country, the Hermann Monument represents unity of the German people. The monument was built in Salem, Ohio and erected in New Ulm in 1897. This is truly a national symbol.

I would like to thank Representative JAMES HANSEN, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, for his assistance in moving this legislation. I would also like to thank Representatives GEORGE MILLER, DON YOUNG, and CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELO of the Resources Committee, for their support on this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues support House Concurrent Resolution 89 and show their support for the contributions of German-Americans.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 89.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS AND TO REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1237) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to permit grants for the national estuary program to be used for the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan, to reauthorize appropriations to carry out the program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1237

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.

(a) ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM.—Section 320(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(a)(2)(B)) is amended by inserting "Lake Ponchartrain Basin, Louisiana and Mississippi; Mississippi Sound, Mississippi;" before "and Peconic Bay, New York."

(b) GRANTS.—Section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

"(2) PURPOSES.—Grants under this subsection shall be made to pay for activities necessary for the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan under this section.

"(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a grant to any person (including a State, interstate, or regional agency or entity) under this subsection for a fiscal year—

"(A) shall not exceed—

"(i) 75 percent of the annual aggregate costs of the development of a comprehensive conservation and management plan; and

"(ii) 50 percent of the annual aggregate costs of the implementation of the plan; and

"(B) shall be made on condition that the non-Federal share of the costs are provided from non-Federal sources."

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 320(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(i)) is amended by striking "\$12,000,000 per fiscal year for each of fiscal years 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991" and inserting "\$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2004".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1237, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), reauthorizes and improves the National Estuary Program, a broadly supported, nonregulatory approach to estuary conservation and management.